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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/676,454	10/01/2003	John L. Thiele	58611US002	7558
32692	7590	09/05/2006		
3M INNOVATIVE PROPERTIES COMPANY PO BOX 33427 ST. PAUL, MN 55133-3427				
			EXAMINER AHMAD, NASSER	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER

1772

DATE MAILED: 09/05/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION

Rejections Maintained

1. Claims 18-22 and 27-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Shizuno (2003/0088928) for reasons of record made in the last Office action mailed on 5/19/2006.
2. Claims 18-22 and 27-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shizuno for reasons of record made in the last Office action mailed on 5/19/2006.
3. Claims 23-26 and 32-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shizuno for reasons of record made in the last Office action mailed on 5/19/2006.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments filed 6/20/2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that the "transitional phrase **consisting essentially of** limits the scope of the claim to the specified materials and those that do not materially affect the basis and novel characteristics of the claimed invention". Applicant also argues that Shizuno's adhesive includes a softener with the polymer and tackifier, and that the softener would affect the physical properties of the resulting adhesive. At first, Examiner agrees with the applicant regarding the transitional phrase. Secondly, applicant has not provided any evidentiary showing as to how the presence of softener affects the

Art Unit: 1772

physical properties of the adhesive. Specifically, with the amount of softener being as low as 10 pbw, it won't materially affect the properties of the tackifier because the adhesive would still provide for the adhesivability and tackiness.

Regarding the 35 USC 103(a) rejection, the above explanation for **consisting essentially of** apply *a fortiori* herein.

Thus, in the absence of any evidence to the contrary, it remains the examiner's position that the claimed invention is anticipated or rendered obvious over the prior art of record discussed hereinabove.

Conclusion

5. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

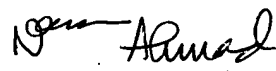
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Art Unit: 1772

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nasser Ahmad whose telephone number is 571-272-1487. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM, and on alternate Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Harold Pyon can be reached on 571-272-1498. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Nasser Ahmad 8/31/06
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1772

N. Ahmad.
August 31, 2006.